

COUNTRY

Czechoslovakia

TOPIC

Troops and Military Installations in Cheb and Mesto Tepla

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PLACE OBTAINED

25X1A

DATE OF CONTENT

prior to 30 January 1953

DATE OBTAINED

25X1

DATE PREPARED 17 March 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

SOURCE

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1. On 30 January 1953, no soldiers were observed in the yard of the Obertor Kaserne in Cheb (N 51/P 37). The sentry at the main gate wore red epaulets. A unit of company strength whose soldiers wore black epaulets and a small unidentified golden insignia marched into the barracks installation. A soldier from the installation, who was on leave, stated that the rest of the unit had left with field equipment for a camp.¹ During the first half of November 1952, the former military hospital in the northeastern sector of the town was unoccupied. The building, whose windows were unglazed, appeared to be neglected.
2. Between 2 and 17 December 1952, the Obertor Kaserne, south of Gottwald Park, quartered Czech motorized troops. The barracks installation also extended to the east side of tr. Marsal. Koneva. On 17 December 1952, an unidentified number of Prag. RN trucks, which were painted green [redacted] were observed in the section of the barracks installation west of tr. Marsale Koneva. Soldiers wearing blue overalls were seen near the motor vehicles. Sentries at the installation wore a wide red stripe on their left sleeves. About 40 young soldiers wearing red epaulets marched from the eastern section of the barracks installation toward the center of the town. During the first half of December, details of recruits wearing red service color were frequently observed marching on Stalingradska Street from the direction of the barracks installation.¹
3. Prior to November 1952, Czech motorized troops occupied the former cloister, 2 km southeast of Mesto Tepla (N 50/P 66). The cloister included about seven two or three-story buildings and was surrounded by a high wall. Czech troops moved into the installation in the first half of 1951. All soldiers observed at the cloister during 1952 wore red service color. Weapons observed included light infantry guns,

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a large number of mortars and one unit had guns of about 76-mm which were drawn by men. Numerous motor vehicles were continuously parked in the yard of the cloister. When the units left for field training, the personnel was loaded on Praga RN trucks. According to a junior lieutenant of the unit, there were more than 1,000 soldiers quartered in the cloister. One of source's friends took part in an instruction course for radio operators which was held in Mesto Tepla. The troop training ground was located about 500 meters north of the town. The post ammunition depot was located in a former storehouse at the northwestern perimeter of the town. No other military installations in Mesto Tepla were known to source.²

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1. [REDACTED] Comment. It is believed that the sources observed elements of the 9th Inf Regt carried in Chev. [REDACTED]. The soldiers wearing black epaulets presumably did not belong to this regiment. This is the first report to mention a wide red stripe on the left sleeve of Czech soldiers, see paragraph 2.

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2. [REDACTED] Comment. This information probably refers to elements of the 2d Inf Regt of which the headquarters regimental units and one battalion are located in Mesto Tepla.

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